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TEXT
TAGS: PREL, PINR, PGOV, AU, UN, UR, IS, GR, MARR
SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PRESS SUMMARY NO.117/86, FOR 06/26/86

WALDHEIM INAUGURATION: AUSTRIAN PRESS CRITICIZES AMB.
LAUDER'S ABSENCE

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1. ACCORDING TO THE WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF THE DAILY "DIE PRESSE", AMB. LAUDER'S PRIVATE ENGAGEMENTS ARE "ONLY A PRETEXT" FOR NOT ATTENDING KURT WALDHEIM'S INAUGURATION JULY 8. IN THE INTERVIEW BY "DIE PRESSE", THE AMBASSADOR REPORTEDLY FELT THAT ATTENDING THE INAUGURATION WOULD HARM HIS US CONTACTS AND THEREBY INHIBIT HIS ABILITY TO PROMOTE U.S.-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS. LAUDER SAID IF THE AUSTRIANS DRIVE HIM INTO A CORNER ON THIS, HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO CARRY OUT HIS FUNCTIONS AND AUSTRIA COULD BE LEFT WITHOUT A US AMBASSADOR. A SOCIETY COLUMN IN THE DAILY "KURIER" CRITICIZES LAUDER, NOTING THAT WHEN CONFRONTED WITH DIFFICULT SITUATIONS, HE VANISHES FROM SIGHT. THE ADMINISTRATION SHOULD REMIND HIM THAT REPRESENTING THE US IS HIS CHIEF RESPONSIBILITY.

OTHER MISSIONS' ATTENDANCE PLANS AT WALDHEIM INAUGURATION

2. LIKE THE U.S. AMBASSADOR, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR IS EXPECTED TO BE ABSENT FROM THE CEREMONY, WHILE THE BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS WILL ATTEND. SPEAKING IN A RADIO INTERVIEW, OVP FOREIGN AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN LUDWIG STEINER SAID CHARGE D' AFFAIRES FELIX BLOCH WAS FULLY QUALIFIED TO REPRESENT THE U.S. AT MR. WALDHEIM'S INAUGURATION, BUT FELT THAT "PERSONAL REASONS" COULD NOT JUSTIFY AMB. LAUDER'S ABSENCE. STEINER SAID THE ABSENCE OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR EFREMOV WAS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MATTER SINCE HE USUALLY IS ON VACATION AT THIS TIME. FURTHERMORE, EFREMOV HAD PERSONALLY EXPLAINED HIS REASONS TO WALDHEIM. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, INDEPENDENT KURIER, ORF NEWS, JUNE 26)

AMB. LAUDER ON INTERCEPTORS FOR AUSTRIA AND CHANCELLOR'S VISIT TO U.S.

3. IN AN INTERVIEW WITH THE DAILY "DIE PRESSE IN NEW YORK, AMBASSADOR LAUDER SAID THE U.S. WILL MAKE NEW OFFERS, SHOULD THE AUSTRIAN-SWEDISH CONTRACT FOR SAAB "DRAGEN" INTERCEPTORS BE CANCELLED. LAUDER ALSO SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH PRESIDENT REAGAN A SEMI-OFFICIAL VISIT TO THE U.S. BY CHANCELLOR VRANITZKY. IN HIS ENDEAVORS TO INTENSIFY U.S.-AUSTRIAN RELATIONS, THE AMBASSADOR PLANS TO PROMOTE THE FOUNDING OF AN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY AND AN ENGLISH-LANGUAGE DAILY IN VIENNA. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, JUNE 26)

ANTI-SEMITISM

4. AUSTRIA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY DECLARED THAT ANTI-SEMITISM IN THIS COUNTRY CANNOT BE DENIED AND THAT IT WAS IN AUSTRIA'S INTEREST TO FIGHT IT. THE CATHOLIC ACTION ORGANIZATION ISSUED A STATEMENT JUNE 25 DEMANDING

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ACTS OF RECONCILIATION TO ELIMINATE ANTI-SEMITISM.

WALDHEIM'S UN PENSION UNDER ATTACK

5. IN A "NON-BINDING" RESOLUTION, THE U.S. SENATE HAS
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CALLED ON PRESIDENT REAGAN TO TAKE STEPS TO DISQUALIFY
WALDHEIM FROM RECEIVING HIS UN PENSION. IN NEW YORK,
THE WJC HAS APPARENTLY FOUND NEW INCRIMINATING DOCUMENTS
ALLEGING MR. WALDHEIM KNEW ABOUT 1943 NAZI PLANS TO
TOPPLE THE GREEK GOVERNMENT. THE CONTENTS OF THIS
ACCUSATION WERE DISPUTED IN A NEWSPAPER COMMENTARY. (ORF
NEWS, INDEPENDENT KRONENZEITUNG, JUNE 26)

OPPOSITION SENDS GOOD-WILL MESSENGER TO U.S.

6. OVP DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ERHARD BUSEK, WHO SAID HE STILL
HAS GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE U.S. JEWISH COMMUNITY EXCEPT
FOR THE WJC, WILL EMBARK ON A GOOD-WILL TOUR OF THE
U.S. (INDEPENDENT DIE PRESSE, JUNE 26)

FM JANKOWITSCH FOR IMPROVEMENT OF AUSTRIAN-ISRAELI
RELATIONS

7. AUSTRIAN FM PETER JANKOWITSCH SAID IN AN INTERVIEW
THAT HE WANTED TO PROMOTE DIALOGUE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND
AUSTRIA AND TO SETTLE DIFFERENCES. JANKOWITSCH NOTED
THAT HE WOULD WELCOME ANY ISRAELI INVITATION TO TRAVEL
TO ISRAEL. (ORF NEWS, JUNE 26). BLOCH
END OF MESSAGE UNCLASSIFIED